

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 6, 2004**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; Dr. Joseph Miceli; Linda Santarella; Robert F. Harrel, Jr.; Barbara Thorne

STAFF: John Crary, Town Administrator.

OTHERS: Bruce Hill, Chairman, Tokeneke Building Committee; Cheryl Russell, RTM Chairman Park & Recreation Committee

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Klein called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announced that the next regular meeting would be held on Monday, July 19, 2004 at Town Hall, Room 206.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Regular Meeting June 7, 2004

The following corrections were made:

On page 1 under Public Works, second paragraph, first line - add the word "Procaccini" before the word "property." In lines 3 and 4 - delete the words "the museum" after "Recreation"; also, delete the word "Department" after "EPC"

One page 1 under Homeland Security - correct "SWARPA" to "SWRPA"

On page 2, first paragraph, last line – change the word "final" to "finalized"

On page 2 under Shellfish Policy, second line – change the name "Riley" to "Raleigh"; in line 3 – delete the phrase "any member of the Coastal Waters Commission"

On page 2 under Community Outreach, second line – change the word “kyacks” to “kayaks”

- ** MRS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2004 AS CORRECTED.**
- ** MRS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Special Meeting of June 14, 2004

The following correction was made:

On page 4 under First Selectwoman’s Report, last paragraph, last line – change the sentence to read “Mrs. Santarella said she has been surveying people on the property which the boat club has asked the Board of Selectmen to deed to them.”

- ** DR. MICELI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2004 AS CORRECTED.**
- ** MRS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive Session Meeting of June 14, 2004

- ** MR. HARREL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2004 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING AS PRESENTED.**
- ** MRS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Special Meeting of June 21, 2004

The following correction was made:

On page 3, second paragraph, last line – delete the word “unanimously” and insert the phrase “by a vote of 4 to 1”

- ** DR. MICELI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2004 AS CORRECTED.**
- ** MR. HARREL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Special Meeting of June 24, 2004

- ** DR. MICELI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2004 AS PRESENTED.**
- ** MRS. SANTARELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

First Selectwoman Klein apologized for not having her notes typed. She said that an important meeting regarding the Glenbrook Cabling project would be held on October 5th, 6th or 7th in the auditorium (the exact date was not yet determined) so that the public could voice their concerns or comments about the project.

First Selectwoman Klein said that three calls were received at the end of last week from senior citizens regarding their tax bills. In the past, each of them had been able to apply for and receive tax relief, but due to the recent property revaluations, they no longer qualified. She said that perhaps a charter revision might be necessary to correct this. The Selectmen were in agreement that this issue had been discussed in the past, and resolved. First Selectwoman Klein said that the seniors did not appeal the revaluation of their property and missed the tax deferral date. She would revisit this issue with Mr. Fox, Town Counsel, since it was he who said that no changes had ever been made regarding this. Mrs. Thorne said that the threshold number for State qualification most likely differed from that of Darien. She said that she was certain the Town could address this, and it seemed likely that if they qualified in the past they would still qualify. Dr. Miceli agreed, saying that he did not want to abandon the seniors.

DOT Contract

First Selectwoman Klein said that Mr. Fox would contact the DOT's attorney regarding the proposed changes to the contract; the DOT has already asked when the agreement would be finalized.

Noroton Railroad Station

First Selectwoman Klein said that Mr. Fox has been working on finalization of the contract with the Noroton Railroad Station. The contractor will repair the roof and windows this month; the next step would be to paint. She said that the project to repair stairs to the pedestrian access has gone out to bid.

Regarding transportation in general, First Selectwoman Klein said that she attended an interesting meeting with the chairman of the TBS to discuss this frustrating subject.

Senior News

First Selectwoman Klein said that the senior newsletters were mailed and everyone should have received a copy. She said that discussion continues regarding the tax relief issue for seniors.

Constituent Complaints

First Selectwoman Klein said that she and Mr. Crary responded to a few recent complaints from constituents by visiting their properties. She was not certain whether or not a solution could be found, and said that the Town would review each individual's situation and try to provide options, but was not making promises.

Shellfish Policy

First Selectwoman Klein said that their next meeting would be July 8th. She said that she has been reading a lot about them and learning their policies. The goal is to develop a fair policy that could be voted on quickly and enforced for everyone.

Downtown Improvements

First Selectwoman Klein said that she and other business owners met today with the Main Street consultant and toured much of the downtown area. The Main Street program would be good to become involved in, and she said that she would meet again with the group, without the consultant, to decide on how to proceed. The next step would be to establish a steering committee, similar to the Downtown Task Force. The consultant said that this would be at no cost to the Town.

Charter Revision

On the subject of revising the charter, First Selectwoman Klein said that by autumn the Town wants to change its purchasing policies from what it now uses, which is accepting the lowest bid. Having a procurement policy would be more beneficial to all departments and add to a smoother and more efficient flow.

Next Year's Budget

First Selectwoman Klein reminded the Board that it needed to begin thinking about next year's budget, particularly to address the budget and staffing needs of Recreation and Parks. She said that an analysis should be done to determine where the help is needed most.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Crary said that he had nothing specific to report on.

NEW BUSINESS

High School Building Committee

There was no report as Mr. Maglathlin was not present.

Tokeneke School Building Committee

Mr. Hill said that preliminary approval was received for funding the project. Negotiations would begin soon with the architect chosen. The group would meet on July 8th to form a subcommittee. Mrs. Thorne thanked Mr. Hill for bringing along the RTM who have now given their support of the project. Mr. Harrel asked when Mr. Hill thought realistic schematics might be available, to which Mr. Hill responded that he would have more information after meeting with the architect. The target was early autumn, probably October, and would be dependent upon the impact of the election. Mr. Hill said that the State was not requiring that formal plans be submitted by June 2005 but they would anticipate receiving substantive information for their review. First Selectwoman Klein thanked Mr. Hill for attending the meeting; Mr. Hill offered his thanks to everyone involved for his or her diligent efforts and particularly to those who volunteered so much of their personal time.

Resolution re Administrative Group Pay Plan

Mr. Crary said that the proposed pay plan was a result of weeks of discussions and increases were based on performance evaluations of department heads, etc.

Mrs. Santarella said that even though her cousin is a building inspector for Darien, the Town Counsel assured her that her vote would not be a violation or conflict of interest.

**** MR. HARREL MOVED THE FOLLOWING:**

RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF DARIEN PAY PLAN ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP POSITIONS BE ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHEET ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP PAY PLAN FY 2004-2004" AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT THE FIRST SELECTMEN IS AUTHORIZED TO ADJUST WAGES OF INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004 CONSISTENT WITH SUCH PLAN AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND DISCUSSED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.

**** DR. MICELI SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Parks and Recreation

**** MR. HARREL MOVED THAT A BUDGET TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,140.00 AS STATED IN A MEMORANDUM DATED 6/24/2004 FROM SUSAN M. SWIATEK, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION, TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND BOARD OF FINANCE BE APPROVED FOR REFERRAL TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE.**

**** MRS. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Noroton Fire Department

**** MRS. THORNE MOVED THAT A BUDGET TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,560.00 AS STATED IN A MEMORANDUM DATED 6/24/2004 FROM MIKE VITTI, CHIEF NOROTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND BOARD OF FINANCE BE APPROVED FOR REFERRAL TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE.**

**** DR. MICELI SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Russell said that she received a few telephone calls regarding the Town seal being placed on the front of theatre project. First Selectwoman Klein said that she was not certain why the seal was there, but it was approved by Planning and Zoning. Mr. Harrel said that he did not see this as a problem as long as it wasn't a situation that would create a precedent.

Mrs. Russell asked Mrs. Klein to further explain the site she visited that had flooding problems. First Selectwoman Klein said that she visited four sites in response to constituent complaints; one of them had severe flooding. Mrs. Russell said that residents on Holly Lane have been complaining for many years of flooding and no one ever acknowledged their complaints. First Selectwoman Klein said that she would view the property and advise Mrs. Russell of her findings.

Referring to the schedule of future meetings, Mrs. Thorne questioned why the first meeting in December was set for Tuesday, December 7 instead of Monday, December 6. Mr. Harrel said that December 6 was the date for the RTM's "State of the Town" and that perhaps December 7th wouldn't be good either because it was the beginning of the Jewish holiday. First Selectwoman Klein said that the date could be changed as it got closer.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MRS. THORNE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. HARREL SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Wiggins for
Telesco Secretarial Services